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United Nations

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Report on the fourteenth session (23-27 May 2011)

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Summary

At its fourteenth session, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development undertook a review of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels. In addition, it considered two priority themes, "measuring the impact of information and communications technology for development" and "technologies to address challenges in areas such as agriculture and water".

The session included two ministerial roundtables, one on "review of progress made in the implementation of World Summit on the Information Society outcomes" and another on "harnessing science and technology for development". The session also included a panel on e-science, e-engineering and e-education. More than 15 Member States were represented at the ministerial level. Participants also included heads or representatives of international organizations of the United Nations system as well as representatives of civil society and business entities.

The participants highlighted the following key issues. Significant progress has been achieved in access to information and communications technologies (ICTs), most notably in mobile telephony and the Internet. However, the gap in broadband access has widened between developed and developing countries. User-generated content has increased in the past few years, but content is not necessarily available in all languages and for all groups in all parts of the world. The digital divide has therefore taken on new dimensions, with respect to quality of access, information and skills that users can obtain, and the value they can derive from it. Participants expressed their concern that ICTs and their applications are still not affordable for the majority of people, in particular those living in rural areas.

In reviewing the progress of World Summit on the Information Society implementation since 2005, participants observed that the important role that the private sector plays in driving ICT development and in building ICT infrastructure was supported by an enabling environment, created by Governments, with independent regulators; respect for the rule of law; protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights; pro-competitive legal, policy and regulatory frameworks; independent courts; and policies that promote entrepreneurship. Participants further highlighted a number of new and emerging areas which deserve policy attention, namely, the potential of ICTs to combat climate change, social networking, virtualization and cloud computing, privacy protection and cyberexploitation and abuse.

In addressing the session's priority theme on "measuring the impact of information and communications technology for development", participants concluded with several calls for action, to national Governments and the international community. They called upon the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development to further its work on measuring the impact of ICTs, in particular in developing countries, by formulating practical guidelines, methodologies and indicators. Participants encouraged national Governments to collect relevant data, share country case studies and cooperate in capacity-building. They also encouraged relevant United Nations entities and other agencies to promote impact assessments of ICTs on poverty and in key sectors to identify the knowledge and skills needed to boost impacts. In addition, they called upon international development partners to support capacity-building efforts financially.

Participants noted with appreciation the report on the outcomes of the Commission Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum and proposed that the Economic and Social Council extend the mandate of the Working Group until the fifteenth session of the Commission in order for it to complete its task on the basis of the work already accomplished. They urged the Working Group to reconvene at the earliest possible time to enable timely submission of its recommendations to the Commission at its fifteenth session.

Participants called upon all stakeholders to make concerted efforts to bridge the digital divide and underscored the need for strategies that contribute to the development of e-Government and pro-poor ICT policies and applications, including access to broadband at the grass-roots level. They underscored the need for capacity-building, including of institutions, organizations and entities dealing with ICTs and Internet governance issues. Also highlighted was the development of innovative approaches that would stimulate the provision of universal access to affordable broadband infrastructure for developing countries and the use of relevant broadband services.

In addressing the priority theme on "technologies to address challenges in areas such as agriculture and water", discussion focused on the challenges faced by smallholder farmers in developing countries. There was recognition that a shift was needed from conventional mono-crops to sustainable regenerative systems. It was also recognized that smallholders should be at the centre of policy and technology decisions. Among smallholder farmers, a greater emphasis should be placed on women, who play a key role in agriculture but often face challenges in moving beyond subsistence farming, as they lack access to key resources.

Participants called upon Governments to review their agricultural science, technology and innovation systems with a view to strengthening policies for more sustainable agricultural practices, in particular for smallholder farmers. Recognizing the key role played by women in agriculture and water management at the domestic and farm levels, participants underscored the need to integrate a gender perspective in the design of such policies.

Effective policy measures to support sustainable agriculture include: increasing the share and improving the effectiveness of public expenditure for agricultural research and development; investing in rural development, such as infrastructure, telecommunications and processing facilities; promoting linkages among farmers, agricultural research, product processing and marketing, and extension services; supporting research on, and dissemination of, sustainable, regenerative production methods, irrigation and soil improvement technologies, as well as the application of affordable ICTs and other technologies, in order to lower costs and make agriculture more profitable for smallholder farmers. Participants called upon the Commission to facilitate the exchange, dissemination and diffusion of best practice examples in the area of agricultural science, technology and innovation, and on cooperation between countries.

A panel discussion was devoted to e-science, e-engineering and e-education. Participants had the opportunity to hear presentations on international collaborative efforts that are currently under way to promote the sharing of scientific and technological information globally. These include the establishment of electronic gateways which provide access to the latest research and other document repositories not currently accessible through existing search engines, and online engineering

networks which enable users to search for content as well as generate and develop solutions to complex problems, in particular in development areas. These collaborative environments help narrow the research gap and identify solutions for common challenges. Educators worldwide collaborate through open educational resources to improve teaching methods, especially in science subjects, to share best practices and to generate engaging content that enables learning. This includes content based on "co-creation", a mix of local teaching materials supplemented with content sourced from a free global repository with contributions by universities and high schools worldwide.

Under agenda item 4, "Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews", participants identified some of the challenges related to such reviews. There was general agreement that the reviews are useful for the participating countries and should constitute a core activity of the Commission and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Several delegates noted that one of the main obstacles to implementing the recommendations of the reviews, or their national science, technology and innovation policies in general, is the lack of financing. It was pointed out that donors tend to prefer development projects with immediate returns, whereas science, technology and innovation require long-term investments. It was suggested that the Commission and UNCTAD, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and other relevant international organizations, should closely collaborate with international and regional development banks, with a view to mobilizing funds for the implementation of and follow-up to science, technology and innovation policy recommendations. Participants also observed that more work is needed to develop appropriate indicators on innovation, to guide policymaking in the context of developing countries.

Participants requested the Commission to facilitate new science, technology and innovation policy reviews, disseminate the new science, technology and innovation policy methodology guidelines and share outcomes and best practices resulting from their implementation. They called upon the Commission to examine new metrics to assess and document outcomes of investments in science and technology and engineering research and development, education and infrastructure, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. They proposed that the Commission consider the establishment of an annual award in recognition of excellence for the application of ICTs in fields of science, technology and engineering that support development.

The Commission selected two priority themes for its fifteenth session, namely, "innovation, research, technology transfer for mutual advantage, entrepreneurship and collaborative development in the information society" and "open access, virtual science libraries, geospatial analysis and other complementary ICT and science, technology, engineering and mathematics assets to address development issues, with particular attention to education". The Commission secretariat was requested to prepare a special paper on education for the 2011-2012 intersessional panel, drawing evidence from existing work produced by the Commission over the past few years. Participants encouraged the Commission to collaborate closely with UNESCO on education, especially in science and technology.

In response to the call of the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fifth session to mainstream a gender perspective in science, technology and

innovation, participants called upon the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to continue to provide a forum, in collaboration with its Gender Advisory Board, to share good practice examples and lessons learned in integrating a gender perspective in science, technology and innovation policymaking and implementation. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development heard a report by the Board on its activities and recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a decision to extend the mandate of the Board for a further three years, beginning in January 2012, in order to allow it to complete its programme of work.

To ensure multi-stakeholder participation in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, while maintaining its intergovernmental nature, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council for adoption four decisions on the modalities of participation of non-State stakeholders.

In chapter I of the present report, the Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of two draft resolutions, entitled "Science and technology for development" and "Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society".

Further information on the session of the Commission is available at www.unctad.org/Templates/meeting.asp?intItemID=3402&lang=1&m=20296&info=outcome.

[10 June 2011]

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society,[1]

Recalling also its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006 on the follow-up to the World Summit and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the mandate that it gave to the Commission,

Recalling further its resolution 2010/2 of 19 July 2010 on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/141 of 20 December 2010 on information and communications technologies for development,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels,[2]

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Improvements and innovations in existing financing mechanisms: information and communication technology for development",[3]

Noting the submission of the report entitled Implementing *WSIS Outcomes: Experience to Date and Prospects for the Future*, by the Commission[4] as an information document,

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for his role in helping to ensure completion of the aforementioned reports in a timely manner,

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* For the discussion, see chap. II.

[1] See A/C.2/59/3, annex, and A/60/687. The outcome documents are also available at www.itu.int/WSIS/index.html.

[2] A/66/64-E/2011/77.

[3] E/CN.16/2010/3.

[4] UNCTAD/DTL/STICT/2011/3.

Taking stock: reviewing the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

1. *Notes* the ongoing implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, emphasizing in particular its multi-stakeholder nature, the roles played in this regard by leading agencies as action line facilitators and the roles of the regional commissions and the United Nations Group on the Information Society, and expresses its appreciation for the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in assisting the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the World Summit;

2. *Takes note of* the respective reports of many United Nations entities, with their own executive summaries, submitted as inputs for the elaboration of the annual report of the Secretary-General to the Commission, and published on the website of the Commission as mandated in Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/8 of 25 July 2007, and recalls the importance of close coordination among the leading action line facilitators and with the secretariat of the Commission;

3. *Notes* the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional level facilitated by the regional commissions, as observed in the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels,[2] including the steps taken in this respect, and emphasizes the need to continue to address issues of specific interest to each region, focusing on the challenges and obstacles that each may be facing with regard to the implementation of all goals and principles established by the World Summit, with particular attention to information and communications technology for development;

4. *Reiterates* the importance of maintaining a process of coordinating the multi-stakeholder implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit through effective tools, with the goal of exchanging information among action line facilitators, identifying issues that need improvement and discussing the modalities of reporting the overall implementation process, encourages all stakeholders to continue to contribute information to the stocktaking database maintained by the International Telecommunication Union on the implementation of the goals established by the World Summit, and invites United Nations entities to update information on their initiatives in the stocktaking database;

5. *Highlights* the urgent need for the incorporation of the recommendations of the outcome documents of the World Summit in the revised guidelines for United Nations country teams on preparing the common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, including the addition of an information and communications technology for development component;

6. *Notes* the holding of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2011, organized by the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Development Programme, as a multi-stakeholder platform for the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit and to facilitate the implementation of the Summit action lines;

7. *Calls upon* all States, in building the information society, to take steps to avoid and to refrain from taking any unilateral measure not in accordance with

international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries and that hinders their well-being;

8. *Welcomes* the progress highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit, in particular that the rapid growth in mobile telephony since 2005 has meant that more than half of the world's inhabitants will have access to information and communications technologies within their reach, in line with one of the World Summit targets; the value of this progress is enhanced by the advent of new services and applications, including m-health, mobile transactions, e-Government, e-business and developmental services, which offer great potential to the development of the information society;

9. *Notes with great concern* that many developing countries lack affordable access to information and communications technologies, and that for the majority of the poor, the promise of science and technology, including information and communications technologies, remains unfulfilled, and emphasizes the need to effectively harness technology, including information and communications technologies, to bridge the digital divide;

10. *Recognizes* that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing the new technologies, such as lack of resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity, and issues related to technology ownership, standards and flows, and in this regard calls upon all stakeholders to provide adequate resources, enhanced capacity-building and transfer of technology to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries;

11. *Also recognizes* the rapid growth in broadband access networks, especially in developed countries, and notes with concern that there is a growing digital divide in the availability, affordability, quality of access and use of broadband between high-income countries and other regions, with least developed countries and Africa as a continent lagging behind the rest of the world;

12. *Further recognizes* that the transition to a mobile-led communications environment is leading to significant changes in operators' business models and that it requires significant rethinking of the ways in which individuals and communities make use of networks and devices, of Government strategies and of ways in which communications networks can be used to achieve development objectives;

13. *Recognizes* that, even with all the developments and the improvement observed in some respects, in numerous developing countries information and communications technologies and their applications are still not affordable to the majority of people, particularly those living in rural areas;

14. *Also recognizes* that the number of Internet users is growing and that in some instances the digital divide is also changing in character from one based on whether access is available to one based on the quality of access, information and skills that users can obtain, and the value they can derive from it, and recognizes in this regard that there is a need to prioritize the use of information and communications technologies through innovative approaches, including multi-stakeholder approaches, within national and regional development strategies;

15. *Welcomes* the report of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development, submitted the Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York on 19 September 2010, and *notes* that the report includes the Commission Declaration of Broadband Inclusion for All;

16. *Notes* that while a solid foundation for capacity-building in information and communications technology has been laid in many areas with regard to building the information society, there is still a need for continuing effort to address the ongoing challenges, especially for developing countries and the least developed countries, and draws attention to the positive impact of broadened capacity development that involves institutions, organizations and entities dealing with information and communications technologies and Internet governance issues;

17. *Recognizes* the need to focus on capacity development policies and sustainable support to further enhance the impact of activities and initiatives at the national and local levels aimed at providing advice, services and support with a view to building an inclusive, people-centred and development-oriented information society;

18. *Notes* that topics that were not central at the first and second phases of the World Summit in 2003 and 2005 continue to emerge, such as the potential of information and communications technologies to combat climate change, social networking, virtualization and cloud computing, the protection of online privacy and the empowerment and protection, especially against cyberexploitation and abuse, of vulnerable groups of society, in particular children and young people;

19. *Reiterates* the importance of information and communications technology indicators as a monitoring and evaluation tool for measuring the digital divide among countries and within societies and in informing decision makers when formulating policies and strategies for social, cultural and economic development, and emphasizes that the standardization and harmonization of reliable and regularly updated information and communications technology indicators capturing the performance, efficiency, affordability and quality of goods and services is essential for implementing information and communications technology policies;

Internet governance

20. *Reaffirms* paragraph 21 of its resolution 2010/2 of 19 July 2010 and paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 65/141 of 20 December 2010;

21. *Reaffirms also* paragraphs 35 to 37 and paragraphs 67 to 72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;[5]

Enhanced cooperation

22. *Recalls* its resolution 2010/2 in which it invited the Secretary-General of the United Nations to convene open and inclusive consultations involving all Member States and all other stakeholders with a view to assisting the process towards enhanced cooperation, in order to enable Governments on an equal footing to carry out their roles and responsibilities in respect of international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet but not in respect of the day-to-day technical and operational matters that do not impact upon those issues, through a balanced

[5] See A/60/687.

participation of all stakeholders in their respective roles and responsibilities, as stated in paragraph 35 of the Tunis Agenda;

23. *Notes with appreciation* the open and inclusive consultations convened by the Secretary-General, through the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, from September to December 2010, including the meeting held in New York on 14 December 2010;

24. *Decides* to forward the report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of these consultations to the General Assembly for consideration at its sixty-sixth session in order to enable Governments on an equal footing to carry out their roles and responsibilities in respect of international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet but not in respect of the day-to-day technical and operational matters that do not impact upon those issues;

Internet Governance Forum

25. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 65/141 on information and communications technologies for development, which extends the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum for a further five years, while recognizing the need for improvements;

26. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report on the outcomes of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum and expresses its gratitude to all its members for their time and valuable efforts in this endeavour as well as to all Member States and other relevant stakeholders that have submitted inputs to the Working Group consultation process;

27. *Notes* that the wealth of information and the complexity and political sensitivity of the subject as well as a divergence of views among members of the Working Group on a number of concrete proposals did not, within the short time frame that it had, allow the Working Group to finalize a set of recommendations, as appropriate, on improving the Forum;

28. *Agrees* to extend the mandate of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum until the fifteenth session of the Commission, and invites it to complete its task on the basis of the work already accomplished;

29. *Urges* that the Working Group be reconvened at the earliest possible time to enable timely submission of its recommendations to the Commission at its fifteenth session, which shall constitute an input from the Commission to the General Assembly of the United Nations, through the Economic and Social Council;

The road ahead

30. *Urges* the United Nations entities still not actively cooperating in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit through the United Nations system and in its follow-up to take the necessary steps and commit to a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society, and to catalyse the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[6]

[6] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

31. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to keep the goal of bridging the digital divide, in its different forms, an area of priority concern, put into effect sound strategies that contribute to the development of e-Government and continue to focus on pro-poor information and communications technology policies and applications, including access to broadband at the grass-roots level, with a view to narrowing the digital divide among and within countries;

32. *Urges* all stakeholders to prioritize the development of innovative approaches that will stimulate the provision of universal access to affordable broadband infrastructure for developing countries and the use of relevant broadband services in order to ensure the development of an inclusive, development-orientated and people-centred information society, and to minimize the digital divide;

33. *Calls upon* international and regional organizations to continue to assess and report on a regular basis on the universal accessibility by nations to information and communications technologies, with the aim of creating equitable opportunities for the growth of the information and communications technology sectors of developing countries;

34. *Urges* all countries to make concrete efforts to fulfil their commitments under the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development;[7]

35. *Calls upon* United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums, in accordance with the outcomes of the World Summit, to periodically review and modify the methodologies for information and communications technology indicators, taking into account different levels of development and national circumstances, and therefore:

(a) *Endorses* the work of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development;

(b) *Calls upon* United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums to study the implications of the current world economic situation on information and communications technology deployment, particularly information and communications technology connectivity through broadband, and its economic sustainability;

(c) *Calls upon* the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development to further its work on measuring the impact of information and communications technologies, particularly in developing countries, by creating practical guidelines, methodologies and indicators;

(d) *Encourages* Governments to collect relevant data at the national level on information and communications technologies, to share information about country case studies and to collaborate with other countries in capacity-building exchange programmes;

(e) *Encourages* United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums to promote impact assessment of information and

[7] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

communications technologies on poverty and in key sectors to identify the knowledge and skills needed to boost impacts;

(f) *Calls upon* international development partners to provide financial support to further facilitate capacity-building and technical assistance in developing countries;

36. *Invites* the international community to make voluntary contributions to the special trust fund established by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to support the review and assessment work of the Commission regarding follow-up to the World Summit, while acknowledging with appreciation the financial support provided by the Governments of Finland and Switzerland to this fund;

37. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, on a yearly basis, a report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in Economic and Social Council resolutions on the assessment of the quantitative and qualitative progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit;

38. *Urges* the Secretary-General to ensure the continued functioning of the Internet Governance Forum and its structures in preparation for the fifth meeting of the Forum, to be held in Nairobi from 27 to 30 September 2011, and future meetings of the Forum, without prejudice to the improvements that may be proposed by the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum;

39. *Invites* all stakeholders to contribute to the open consultation of the United Nations Group on the Information Society on the overall review of the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes (WSIS+10) in order to ensure that their views and needs are reflected in the outcomes of this consultation, that is, the Action Plan, which shall be presented to the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination at its meeting in April 2012, and requests the Group to provide a report on the open consultation for consideration by the Commission at its fifteenth session in May 2012.

Draft resolution II
Science and technology for development*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as the United Nations torch bearer for science, technology and innovation for development,

Also recognizing the critical role of innovation in maintaining national competitiveness in the global economy and in realizing sustainable development,

Recalling the outcome document of the 2005 World Summit, which emphasizes the role of science and technology, including information and communications technologies, as vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, and *reaffirming* the commitments contained therein, especially support for the efforts of developing countries, individually and

* For the discussion, see chap. III.

collectively, to harness new agricultural technologies in order to increase agricultural productivity through environmentally sustainable means,[8]

Recalling also that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is the secretariat of the Commission,

Recalling further the work of the Commission on "science, technology and engineering for innovation and capacity-building in education and research", and "development-oriented policies for a socio-economically inclusive information society, including policies relating to access, infrastructure, and an enabling environment",

Welcoming the work of the Commission on its two current substantive themes, "Technologies to address challenges in areas such as agriculture and water", and "Measuring the impact of information and communications technology for development",

Recognizing the important role that information and communications technologies play in promoting innovation in science and technology for development,

Also recognizing the importance of science, technology and innovation policy reviews in assisting developing countries to strengthen their national development plans and improve their innovation systems,

Recalling the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology,[9] adopted at its fifty-fifth session, which inter alia, highlighted the need for the sharing of good practice examples in mainstreaming a gender perspective into science, technology and innovation policies and programmes, with a view to replicating and scaling up successes, and to further the call of the Commission on the Status of Women upon the Commission on Science and Technology for Development for concrete steps in this respect,

Taking note of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development Intersessional panel meeting, held in Geneva in December 2010, and the report prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,[10]

Also taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development,[11]

Extending its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for his role in helping to complete the aforementioned reports in a timely manner,

Noting that science, technology and innovation, and information and communications technologies are essential to raising agricultural productivity and to soil, water and watershed management, particularly to support smallholder farmers,

[8] See General Assembly resolution A/60/1, para. 60.
[9] E/CN.6/2011/L.6.
[10] E/CN.16/2011/CRP.1.
[11] E/CN.16/2011/2 and E/CN.16/2011/3.

Noting with concern that there has been a decline of investment in publicly funded agricultural research and development in many countries, as well as a decrease in donor support for agricultural research,

Noting that agricultural research, education and extension services in many countries do not adequately address local, social needs, especially those related to the poor, including smallholder farmers,

Recognizing the key role played by women in agriculture and water management at the domestic and farm levels, while noting their lack of access to credit, land, knowledge and skills that are essential to raising productivity and reducing poverty,

Also recognizing that increased investments in watershed management, agricultural knowledge, water and soil management and science and technology, particularly when complemented by investments in rural development in such areas as infrastructure, telecommunications and processing facilities, can increase productivity and yield high economic rates of return, reduce poverty and have positive environmental, social, health and cultural benefits,

Taking note of the outcome of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in İstanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, the İstanbul Programme of Action and the Political Declaration adopted by the member countries,

Extending its appreciation to the Government of Turkey for its initiative to set up an International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre with a view to helping to build the technological capabilities of the least developed countries,

Decides to make the following recommendations for consideration by national Governments, the Commission and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development:

(a) Governments are encouraged to take into account the findings of the Commission and undertake the following actions:

(i) Review their agricultural science, technology and innovation systems with a view to strengthening policies for more sustainable agricultural practices, particularly for smallholder farmers, while integrating a gender perspective in the design of these policies;

(ii) Consider increasing the share and improving the effectiveness of public expenditure for agricultural research and development;

(iii) Target public investment towards improving physical and research and development infrastructures (including rural road networks, power and Internet connections, education, training and health), linkages among farmers, agricultural research, agricultural product processing and marketing, and extension services, supporting sustainable, regenerative production methods;

(iv) Review research and education systems to ensure that they adequately address the challenges faced by smallholder farmers to achieve more sustainable agricultural practices;

(v) Encourage participatory research which engages farmers, agricultural workers, especially women, and other stakeholders;

(vi) Support sustainable agriculture by introducing mechanisms and policies that prevent land degradation and the overuse of pesticides, fertilizers, water

and energy, especially fossil fuels, as well as to consider the health, environmental and social costs of agricultural production processes;

(vii) Support research on irrigation and soil improvement technologies, as well as the application of affordable information and communication technologies and other technologies, to lower costs and make agriculture more profitable for smallholder farmers;

(viii) Consider improving market access for developing country producers;

(b) The Commission on Science and Technology for Development is encouraged to:

(i) Provide technical and policy support and advice, upon request, on how to strengthen and stimulate innovation in sustainable agricultural and water management systems, including extension services, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and other relevant international and regional organizations;

(ii) Promote an integrated, international and collaborative approach in these areas, particularly to meet the needs of smallholder farmers;

(iii) Promote the exchange, dissemination and diffusion of best practice examples in the area of agricultural science, technology and innovation, and promote cooperation between countries in order to face common challenges in matters of science and technology;

(iv) Facilitate new science, technology and innovation policy reviews, as requested by member countries, to emphasize science and technology and information and communications technologies in building human capacity and infrastructure to foster innovation in national development plans and programmes, in close collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Bank and other relevant international development banks and institutions, and consider new modalities to monitor progress for their implementation;

(v) In particular, the Commission should identify opportunities and best practices and synergies in and between e-science, e-engineering and e-education programmes worldwide in the course of performing science, technology and innovation policy reviews;

(vi) Complete and disseminate the new science, technology and innovation policy methodology guidelines and share outcomes and best practices resulting from their implementation;

(vii) Examine new metrics to assess and document outcomes of investments in science and technology and engineering research and development, education and infrastructure, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Bank and member countries that have established programmes in this field of research;

(viii) Continue to provide a forum, in collaboration with its Gender Advisory Board, to share good practice examples and lessons learned in integrating a gender perspective in science, technology and innovation policymaking and implementation;

(ix) Consider, on an annual basis, an award, in collaboration with the World Summit on the Information Society World Summit Awards and the International Center for New Media, in Salzburg, Austria, for the innovative application of information and communications technologies in the fields of science, technology and engineering that support development.

B. Draft decisions for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission also recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Extension of the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development*

The Economic and Social Council decides to extend the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, for a further three years, beginning on 1 January 2012, in order to allow it to complete its programme of work within the extrabudgetary resources allocated for this purpose.

Draft decision II
Participation of non-governmental organizations and civil society entities in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development**

The Economic and Social Council, recalling its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006, its decision 2008/217 of 18 July 2008 and its decision 2010/226 of 20 December 2010, and recognizing the need for maximizing the meaningful participation of and contributions by civil society in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development:

(a) Acknowledges that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development has benefited from the participation of non-governmental organizations and civil society entities in its work;

(b) Decides, on an exceptional basis and without prejudice to the established rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, to extend to non-governmental organizations and civil society entities that are not in consultative status with the Council but that received accreditation to the World Summit on the Information Society, an invitation to participate in the work of the Commission until 2015;

(c) Urges voluntary contributions in order to provide the maximum possible assistance for the participation of non-governmental organizations and civil society entities of developing countries and to ensure their balanced representation, including in the panels of the Commission;

* For the discussion, see chap. III.
** For the discussion, see chap. V.

(d) Invites the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to consider as expeditiously as possible the applications of such entities, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council;

(e) Decides that, while using the multi-stakeholder approach effectively, the intergovernmental nature of the Commission should be preserved;

(f) Also decides that every effort should be made by the Commission, in collaboration with relevant United Nations bodies and other interested parties, to mobilize and ensure the meaningful and effective participation, including by providing assistance on a voluntary basis, of all stakeholders from developing countries, including non-governmental organizations, small and medium-sized enterprises, industry associations and development actors.

Draft decision III
Participation of academic and technical entities in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development*

The Economic and Social Council, recalling its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006, its decision 2008/218 of 18 July 2008 and its decision 2010/227 of 20 December 2010, recognizing the need for maximizing the meaningful participation of and contributions by academic entities in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, and having reviewed the current modalities for their participation:

(a) Acknowledges that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development has benefited from the participation of academic entities in its work;

(b) Decides to extend the current arrangements for the participation of academic and technical entities in the work of the Commission until 2015;

(c) Also decides that, while using the multi-stakeholder approach effectively, the intergovernmental nature of the Commission should be preserved;

(d) Further decides that every effort should be made by the Commission, in collaboration with relevant United Nations bodies and other interested parties, to mobilize and ensure the meaningful and effective participation, including by providing assistance on a voluntary basis, of all stakeholders from developing countries, including non-governmental organizations, small and medium-sized enterprises, industry associations and development actors.

Draft decision IV
Participation of business sector entities, including the private sector, in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development*

The Economic and Social Council, recalling its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006, its decision 2007/216 of 26 April 2007 and its decision 2010/228 of 20 December 2010, recognizing the need for maximizing the meaningful participation of and contributions by business sector entities, including the private

* For the discussion, see chap. V.

sector, in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, and having reviewed the current modalities for their participation:

(a) Acknowledges that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development has benefited from the participation of business sector entities, including the private sector, in its work;

(b) Decides to extend the current arrangements for the participation of business sector entities, including the private sector, in the work of the Commission until 2015;

(c) Also decides that, while using the multi-stakeholder approach effectively, the intergovernmental nature of the Commission should be preserved;

(d) Further decides that every effort should be made by the Commission, in collaboration with relevant United Nations bodies and other interested parties, to mobilize and ensure the meaningful and effective participation, including by providing assistance on a voluntary basis, of all stakeholders from developing countries, including non-governmental organizations, small and medium-sized enterprises, industry associations and development actors.

Draft decision V
Participation of non-governmental organizations and civil society entities not accredited to the World Summit on the Information Society in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development regarding the discussion about the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit*

The Economic and Social Council, recalling its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006:

(a) Requests the secretariat of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to propose to the Economic and Social Council lists of non-governmental organizations and civil society entities not accredited to the World Summit on the Information Society that have expressed the wish to participate in the work of the Commission, for consideration and approval by the Council in a timely manner, to enable them to participate until 2015, on an exceptional basis, in the work of the Commission in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Council;

(b) Decides that, while using the multi-stakeholder approach effectively, the intergovernmental nature of the Commission should be preserved;

(c) Also decides that every effort should be made by the Commission, in collaboration with relevant United Nations bodies and other interested parties, to mobilize and ensure the meaningful and effective participation, including by providing assistance on a voluntary basis, of all stakeholders from developing countries, including nongovernmental organizations, small and medium-sized enterprises, industry associations and development actors.

* For the discussion, see chap. V.

Draft decision VI
Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its fourteenth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifteenth session of the Commission*

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its fourteenth session;[12]

(b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifteenth session of the Commission as set out below.

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes at the regional and international levels.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

3. Priority themes:

(a) Innovation, research, technology transfer for mutual advantage, entrepreneurship and collaborative development in the information society;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(b) Open access, virtual science libraries, geospatial analysis and other complementary information and communications technology and science, technology, engineering and mathematics assets to address development issues, with particular attention to education.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

4. Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews.

5. Election of the Chair and other officers for the sixteenth session of the Commission.

6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the sixteenth session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifteenth session.

* For the discussion, see chaps. VII and VIII.

[12] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 11* (E/2011/31).

Chapter II

Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels

3. The Commission considered item 2 of its agenda at its 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 9th meetings, on 23, 24, 25 and 27 May 2011. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels (A/66/64-E/2011/77);

(b) Report of the Chair of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum (A/66/67-E/2011/79);

(c) Summary report prepared by the secretariat of UNCTAD on the meeting of the intersessional panel of the Commission, held in Geneva from 15 to 17 December 2010 (E/CN.16/2011/CRP.1);

(d) Report prepared by the secretariat of UNCTAD on implementing World Summit on the Information Society outcomes: experience to date and prospects for the future (E/CN.16/2011/CRP.2).

4. At the 3rd meeting, on 24 May, the head of the secretariat of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, UNCTAD, introduced the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/66/64-E/2011/77.

5. Statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, Brazil, the United States of America, Lesotho, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Costa Rica, Austria and China, as well as by the observers for Zimbabwe and Nigeria.

6. Statements were also made by the representative of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and by the representative of the Association for Progressive Communications.

7. The representative of UNCTAD responded to questions raised.

8. Also at the 3rd meeting, Frederic Riehl (Switzerland), Vice-Chair, introduced the report of the Chair of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum (A/66/67-E/2011/79).

9. Statements were made by Jovan Kurbalija, Director, DiploFoundation; Nandini Kotthapally, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations Office at Geneva; Markus Kummer, Vice President, Public Policy, Internet Society; Anriette Esterhuysen, Executive Director, Association for Progressive Communications; Theresa Swinehart, Executive Director, Global Internet Policy, Verizon Communications; and George Sadowsky, Executive Director, Global Internet Policy Initiative.

10. At the 4th meeting, on 24 May, statements were made by the representatives of Hungary, Portugal, Finland, Lesotho, the United States of America, the Russian Federation, Pakistan, China, Sri Lanka, France, India, the Philippines, Israel, South Africa and Peru, and by the observer for Egypt.

11. Statements were made by the representatives of ECA and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

12. Statements were also made by the representatives of the International Criminal Court, the Association for Progressive Communications and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers.

13. Alvaro Galvani, Vice-Chair (Brazil), summarized the discussion.

14. At the 5th meeting, on 25 May, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, India and Hungary, and by the observer for Egypt.

Ministerial round table on the review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

15. At its 1st meeting, on 23 May, the Commission convened a ministerial round table on the review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, moderated by Anriette Esterhuysen, Executive Director, Association for Progressive Communications, in which the following participants took part: Mothetjoa Metsing, Minister of Communications, Science and Technology of Lesotho; Kwaku Ofosu Adarkwa, Chief Director of the Ministry of Communications of Ghana; Oyé Guilavogui, Minister of Telecommunications and New Information Technology of Guinea; Hassan Al-Sayed, Assistant Secretary-General, ictQATAR; Cherif Benmehrez, Adviser to the Minister of Communications of Algeria; Gabriel Rodríguez, Director of the Department of Energy, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile; and Fortunato T. de la Peña, Under-Secretary, Department of Science and Technology of the Philippines.

16. The delegations of Zimbabwe, Austria, India, Hungary, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Malta and Brazil, and the representative of ICC-BASIS (International Chamber of Commerce-Business Action to Support the Information Society) also took part.

17. The moderator summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

18. At its 9th meeting, on 27 May, the Commission had before it a draft resolution, entitled "Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society", submitted by the Chair and circulated in an informal paper.

19. A statement was made by the facilitator, Peter Major (Hungary), in which he reported on the outcome of informal consultations on the draft resolution.

20. The Secretary advised the Commission that owing to a number of changes introduced to the text, the Programme Planning and Budget Division, Department of Management, would review the draft resolution for any possible programme budget implications and would bring the matter to the attention of the Economic and Social Council before it took action on the draft resolution.

21. The Commission adopted the draft resolution and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I).

Chapter III

Priority themes:
(a) Measuring the impact of information and communications technology for development;
(b) Technologies to address challenges in areas such as agriculture and water

22. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 2nd, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th meetings, on 23, 25, 26 and 27 May 2011. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on technologies to address challenges in areas such as agriculture and water (E/CN.16/2011/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on measuring the impact of information and communication technologies for development (E/CN.16/2011/3);

(c) Summary report prepared by the secretariat of UNCTAD on the meeting of the intersessional panel of the Commission, held in Geneva from 15 to 17 December 2011 (E/CN.16/2011/CRP.1);

(d) Report of the secretariat of UNCTAD on applying a gender lens to science, technology and innovation (E/CN.16/2011/CRP.3).

23. At its 2nd meeting, on 23 May, the Commission began its consideration of the item.

24. A statement was made by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD.

25. Amr Ezzat Salama, Minister of High Education, Scientific Research and Technology of Egypt, addressed the Commission.

26. At the 5th meeting, on 25 May, an introductory statement was made by the representative of UNCTAD.

27. A statement was made by the Deputy Director-General and Head of the Department of Technical Cooperation, International Atomic Energy Agency.

28. A statement was also made by the Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD.

29. Presentations under sub-item (a) were made by the Head of the Market Information and Statistics Division, International Telecommunication Union, and the Senior Economist, Economic Analysis and Statistics Division, Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

30. Presentations under sub-item (b) were made by the Executive Director, International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements, and the Head of the Trade and Sustainable Development Section, UNCTAD.

31. A statement was made by the representative of China.

32. At the 6th meeting, on 25 May, statements were made by the representatives of Turkey, Portugal, Cuba, the Philippines, Peru, Lesotho and the United States of America, and by the observers for Argentina and Zimbabwe.

33. A statement was also made by the representative of ECA.

34. At its 7th meeting, on 26 May, the Commission heard a presentation by Daan du Toit, Senior Science and Technology Representative to the European Union, South African Department of Science and Technology, who responded to questions raised and comments made by the representatives of Lesotho and China, and by the representative of the World Intellectual Property Organization.

35. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the member of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, who responded to questions raised and comments made by the representatives of the Philippines, Sri Lanka, the United States of America, Austria, the United Republic of Tanzania and Ghana, as well as by the representative of ESCWA and the observer for the Association for Progressive Communications.

Ministerial round table on harnessing science and technology to address development challenges

36. At the 2nd meeting, on 23 May, the Commission held a ministerial round table on harnessing science and technology to address development challenges, moderated by Gretchen Kalonji, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO.

37. Presentations were made by the following participants: Dong-Kun Sul, First Vice-Minister of Education, Science and Technology of the Republic of Korea; Madeleine Tchuinte, Minister of Scientific Research and Innovation of Cameroon; Amr Ezzat Salama, Minister of High Education, Scientific Research and Technology of Egypt; Nicholas Sammut, Chief Executive Officer, Malta Council for Science and Technology; Sanja Vlahović, Minister of Science of Montenegro; Irfan Nadeem Sayeed, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology of Pakistan; Fortunato T. de la Peña, Under-Secretary, Department of Science and Technology of the Philippines; Heneri Dzinotyiweyi, Minister of Science and Technology Development of Zimbabwe; and Sherry Ayittey, Minister for Environment, Science and Technology of Ghana.

38. An interactive dialogue ensued with the delegations of the Dominican Republic, Sri Lanka, Chile, Portugal, Tunisia, Peru, Costa Rica and the United States of America.

39. The representatives of ESCWA and ECA, as well as the representative of the International Chamber of Commerce, also participated.

40. The moderator summarized the discussion.

Panel discussion on "e-Science, e-Engineering, e-Education"

41. At its 6th meeting, on 25 May, the Commission held a panel discussion on "e-Science, e-Engineering, e-Education", moderated by Andrew W. Reynolds, Deputy Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary of State, United States Department of State.

42. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Walter Warnick, Director of the Office of Science, Office of Scientific and Technical Information, United States Department of Energy; Richard Larson, Mitsui Professor, Engineering

Systems Division, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and Michael Michaud, Managing Director, Global Alliances, American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

43. The panellists engaged in an interactive dialogue with the delegations of Austria, Portugal, Sri Lanka, Cameroon, China, Lesotho, Peru and Malta.

Action taken by the Commission

Science and technology for development

44. At its 8th meeting, on 27 May, the Commission had before it a draft resolution, entitled "Science and technology for development", submitted by the Chair, which was circulated in English only.

45. A statement was made by the facilitator, Vijaya Kumar (Sri Lanka), in which he reported on the outcome of informal consultations on the draft resolution.

46. Following statements by the representatives of Portugal, the United States of America, Peru, China, the Philippines, Lesotho, Austria and Brazil, the facilitator revised the text.

47. The Chair informed the Commission that the draft text contained no programme budget implications.

48. The Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised, and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II).

Extension of the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission for Science and Technology for Development

49. At its 8th meeting, on 27 May, the Commission had before it a draft decision, entitled "Extension of the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board to the Commission for Science and Technology for Development", submitted by the Chair, which was circulated in English only.

50. Following statements by the representatives of Sri Lanka and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Commission adopted the text and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision I).

Chapter IV

Presentation of reports on science and technology and innovation policy reviews

51. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 7th meeting, on 26 May 2011.

52. An introductory statement was made by the representative of the secretariat of UNCTAD.

53. Statements were made by the representatives of Lesotho, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Philippines, Peru and the United States of America.

54. A statement was also made by the observer for Guinea.

Chapter V
Review of methods of work of the Commission

55. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 7th meeting, on 26 May 2011. It had before it a note by the secretariat of UNCTAD on methods of work of the Commission (E/CN.16/2011/4).

56. At the same meeting, the Commission heard an introductory statement by the representative of the secretariat of UNCTAD.

57. Statements were made by the representatives of Sri Lanka, the United States of America, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Austria, Portugal, the Dominican Republic and Peru, and by the observer for Belgium.

58. The representative of the secretariat of UNCTAD responded to questions raised.

Action taken by the Commission

Participation of non-governmental organizations and civil society entities, academic and technical entities, and business sector entities, including the private sector, in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Participation of non-governmental organizations and civil society entities not accredited to the World Summit on the Information Society in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development regarding the discussion about the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit

59. At the 8th meeting, on 27 May, the facilitator, Alvaro Galvani (Brazil), reported on the outcome of informal consultations held on the draft decisions.

60. Statements were made by the representatives of Sri Lanka, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United States of America, Portugal, Austria, Peru, the Philippines, Costa Rica, China, Chile and the Dominican Republic.

61. The representative of the secretariat of UNCTAD made a clarification.

62. At its 9th meeting, on 27 May, the Commission had before it four draft decisions, submitted by the Vice-Chair, Alvaro Galvani (Brazil), on the basis of informal consultations, which were circulated in English only.

63. Following statements by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United States of America and the Philippines, the Commission adopted the draft decisions and recommended them to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decisions II-V).

Chapter VI

Election of the Chair and other officers for the fifteenth session of the Commission

64. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 9th meeting, on 27 May 2011.

65. Following statements by the representatives of India (on behalf of the Asian Group), Portugal (on behalf of the Western European and other States Group), the Philippines (on behalf of the Asian Group), Lesotho, Brazil, Sri Lanka, Austria, France, Pakistan, Finland, Peru, Togo, the United States of America, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Costa Rica, the United Republic of Tanzania, India, Belgium, the Dominican Republic, Slovakia, as well as the Chair, the Commission elected by acclamation the following officers for its fifteenth session:

Chair:

Fortunato de la Peña (Philippines)

Vice-Chairs:

Sherry Ayittey (Ghana)
Miguel Palomino de la Gala (Peru)
Andrew Reynolds (United States of America)

Chapter VII

Provisional agenda and documentation for the fifteenth session of the Commission

66. The Commission considered item 7 of its agenda at its 8th meeting, on 27 May 2011. It had before it an informal paper containing the draft provisional agenda and documentation for its fifteenth session.

67. At the same meeting, the Secretary revised the text.

68. Statements were made by the representatives of Sri Lanka, Costa Rica, Malta, Togo, the United States of America, the Philippines, the Dominican Republic, Brazil, the United Republic of Tanzania, Austria and Peru.

69. The Secretary and the representative of the secretariat of UNCTAD made clarifications in response to questions raised by delegations.

70. The Commission approved a draft decision on the provisional agenda and documentation for its fifteenth session, as further revised, and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision VI).

Chapter VIII
Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fourteenth session

71. At its 9th meeting, on 27 May 2011, the Commission had before it the draft report on its fourteenth session (E/CN.16/2011/L.1).

72. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report on its fourteenth session and entrusted the Rapporteur with its completion.

Chapter IX
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

73. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development held its fourteenth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 23 to 27 May 2011. The Commission held 9 meetings (1st to 9th).

74. The session was opened by the Chair, Sherry Ayittey (Ghana), who also made a statement.

75. Also at the 1st meeting, on 23 May, the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD made a statement.

76. At the same meeting, statements were made by the following: Houlin Zhao, Deputy Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union; Andrew Herbert, Chairman of Microsoft Research EMEA (Europe, Middle East, Africa); and Herbert Heitmann, Executive Vice-President, Royal Dutch Shell, on behalf of ICC-BASIS.

77. At the 2nd meeting, on 23 May, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD made a statement.

78. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by Amr Ezzat Salama, Minister of High Education, Scientific Research and Technology of Egypt.

B. Attendance

79. The list of participants for the session is contained in document E/CN.16/2011/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

80. At the 8th meeting of its thirteenth session, on 21 May 2010, the Commission had elected the following members of the Bureau of its fourteenth session by acclamation:

Chair:

Sherry Ayittey (Ghana)

Vice-Chairs:

Alvaro Galvani (Brazil)
Fortunato de la Peña (Philippines)
Štefan Morávek (Slovakia)
Frédéric Riehl (Switzerland)

81. At its 1st meeting, on 23 May, the Commission appointed Fortunato de la Peña (Philippines), in addition to serving as Vice-Chair, to serve as the Rapporteur of the fourteenth session of the Commission.

82. At its 3rd meeting, on 24 May, the Commission elected Martin Bruncko (Slovakia) as Vice-Chair of the fourteenth session of the Commission to replace Štefan Morávek (Slovakia), who resigned his position.

D. Agenda and organization of work

83. At its 1st meeting, on 23 May, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda for the session and approved its organization of work, as contained in document E/CN.16/2011/1/Rev.1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes at the regional and international levels.
3. Priority themes:
   (a) Measuring the impact of information and communications technology for development;
   (b) Technologies to address challenges in areas such as agriculture and water.
4. Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews.
5. Review of methods of work of the Commission.
6. Election of the Chair and other officers for the fifteenth session of the Commission.
7. Provisional agenda and documentation for the fifteenth session of the Commission.
8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fourteenth session.

84. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the proposed organization of work, as contained in annex I to document E/CN.16/2011/1/Rev.1 and as updated in an informal paper circulated in English only.

E. Documentation

85. The list of documents before the Commission at its fourteenth session is contained in the annex to the present document.

Annex

List of documents before the Commission at its fourteenth session

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
A/66/64-E/2011/77	2	Report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels
A/66/67-E/2011/79	2	Report of the Chair of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum
E/CN.16/2011/INF/1		List of participants
E/CN.16/2011/1/Rev.1	1	Provisional annotated agenda and organization of work
E/CN.16/2011/2	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on technologies to address challenges in areas such as agriculture and water
E/CN.16/2011/3	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on measuring the impact of information and communication technologies for development
E/CN.16/2011/4	5	Note by the UNCTAD secretariat on methods of work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development
E/CN.16/2011/L.1	8	Draft report of the Commission on its fourteenth session
E/CN.16/2011/CRP.1[a]	2 and 3	Summary report prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat on the meeting of the intersessional panel of the Commission, held in Geneva from 15-17 December 2010
E/CN.16/2011/CRP.2[a]	2	Implementing World Summit on the Information Society outcomes: experience to date and prospects for the future
E/CN.16/2011/CRP.3[a]	3	Applying a gender lens to science, technology and innovation

[a] Available from http://www.unctad.org/cstd.

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